

# AFT WASHINGTON RESOLUTION 2024-07

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## 1 Resolution in Support of Sensible Federal Government Priorities

2 **WHEREAS:** the biggest threats to the people of the United States are not military but are  
3 (1) the failure to provide: living wage jobs; affordable health care, education  
4 and housing and necessary social services as human rights;  
5 (2) the climate crisis, which is causing massive floods, severe droughts, heat  
6 domes, increasingly destructive storms, and health-threatening air quality,  
7 with disproportionate impact on frontline communities and people of  
8 color;  
9 (3) the threat of nuclear war;  
10 (4) systemic racism and gender discrimination.

11 **WHEREAS:** the US Pentagon budget increased by an average of 5.7% per year from 2001  
12 to 2022;

13 **WHEREAS:** the Federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour would be \$24.84 if it had  
14 increased at the same rate as the Pentagon budget, but it has increased by an  
15 average of only 1% per year since 2001;

16 **WHEREAS:** the Pentagon consumes more than half of the Federal discretionary budget,  
17 and currently costs taxpayers \$877 billion per year;

18 **WHEREAS:** the US military expenses are higher than those of the next nine nations  
19 combined, and six of those are US allies;

20 **WHEREAS:** the Pentagon has failed all six attempted audits and is unable to account for  
21 61% of its \$3.5 trillion in assets;

22 **WHEREAS:** military corporations routinely gouge the public, overcharge the government,  
23 and inflate their profits at taxpayer expense;

24 **WHEREAS:** the 750 or more overseas US bases do not make us more secure, but rather  
25 become flashpoints for conflict and possible war;

26 **WHEREAS:** the Pentagon is the planet's largest institutional fossil fuel user and emitter of  
27 greenhouse gasses;

28 **WHEREAS:** we could make substantial reductions to military spending without  
29 compromising national security;

30 **WHEREAS:** the funds saved should be redirected to combating the climate crisis, meeting urgent social priorities, and  
31 addressing other needs of working people, the poor and the disadvantaged;

32 **WHEREAS:** the 2017 national AFL-CIO Convention resolved that "The AFL-CIO calls upon the president and Congress  
33 to bring the war dollars home and make our priority as a nation rebuilding the nation's crumbling  
34 infrastructure, creating millions of living wage jobs and addressing human needs such as education, health  
35 care, housing, retirement security, and jobs";

36 **WHEREAS:** Veterans for Peace urges the labor movement to join in its work of reducing bloated Pentagon spending;

*Adopted*

*Adopted as amended:*

By Committee

By Convention

By Executive Board

*Defeated*

*Tabled*

- 37 **RESOLVED:** that AFT Washington, AFL-CIO supports legislation that significantly reduces the excessive Pentagon  
38 budget without cutting pay or benefits of those serving in the US military; one such bill is HR 1134, the  
39 People Over the Pentagon Act, introduced by Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA) and Rep. Mark Pocan (D-WI), which  
40 would reduce the Pentagon budget by \$100 billion; and
- 41 **RESOLVED:** that AFT Washington, AFL-CIO endorses HR 1134 with the understanding that the co-sponsors of this bill  
42 will incorporate language that provides for a just transition for any civilian workers or members of the  
43 military whose job or career might be impacted as a result of the implementation of this bill; and
- 44 **RESOLVED:** that a copy of this resolution shall be delivered to the Representatives and Senators within the jurisdiction  
45 covered by AFT Washington, AFL-CIO with a request that they co-sponsor HR 1134 and companion  
46 legislation in the Senate; and
- 47 **RESOLVED:** that AFT Washington, AFL-CIO will inform our members of this resolution so that they may understand  
48 the importance of having our tax dollars reflect our true priorities and communicate to their  
49 Congressional Representative and Senators their support for HR 1134; and
- 50 **RESOLVED:** that AFT Washington, AFL-CIO will urge the labor bodies with which it is affiliated to pass similar  
51 resolutions in support of sensible **priorities**.
- 52 **RESOLVED:** that AFT Washington, AFL-CIO will inform the [People Over Pentagon Campaign](#) so that its support for  
53 cutting the military budget, as proposed in H.R. 1134, can be publicly listed as an organizational endorser.

Adopted in open meeting by the Executive Board on October 5, 2024.

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